

DCI/IC 75-023

12 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Perspectives: 1975-1995

1. Attached are notes from [redacted] which mark beginning responses to your urging that we endeavor to peer a little further into the more distant future than the five-year span we currently consider in Perspectives. I am assuming the central part of your concern is that we -- the Intelligence Community -- could come to the realization along about 1985 that some fundamental (and expensive) programmatic and resource decisions of a far-reaching nature had been made, say, in the summer of 1975 which have turned out to be short-sighted and off the mark. And for this reason you would like to come up with some reasonably logical, albeit highly speculative, assumptions as to what the world could look like 20 years from now. (My father used to say: "If my front sight were as good as my hindsight, I wouldn't do the things I do by a damn sight!") Obviously a tough order, and I'm afraid [redacted] have not even dented the problem yet -- let alone penetrate it.

2. This clearly is a problem for the NIO's, and they, too, will need all the help they can get. A possible concept could be for each NIO to take three or four of the major problems/trends/issues in his respective area, add 20 years and simply speculate what these problems/trends/issues could look like at that time. Add a separate paragraph or so on possible technological breakthroughs and one on the universal issues of energy shortage, pollution, and food vs over-population, and we probably will have gone as far as we dare. The result may still be something we cannot use, but we will only know after we have tried.

3. May I suggest this as a subject for your upcoming meeting with the NIO's this Monday afternoon?

SIGNED

Samuel V. Wilson
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

Enclosure

As stated

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TO: DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
FROM: SVW/nw/12Apr75
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to poor scan quality. It appears to be a memorandum or report containing several paragraphs of text, possibly discussing intelligence matters. Key words like "information", "source", and "report" might be discernible in some places.]